

Combining Network Management Information with Application Information on a Computer
Network

ABSTRACT

5 A data processing network and an associated method of transmitting protocol data units
(PDU) is disclosed. The network includes a first server including a first network interface card
(NIC) that connects the first server to a central switch. The network further includes a second
server including a second network interface card (NIC) that connects the second server to the
central switch. The first NIC is configured to store a first PDU in a buffer upon determining that
10 the first PDU is of a first type and to combine the first PDU stored in the buffer with a second
PDU of a second type upon determining that the first and second PDU share a common target.
The combined PDU is then forwarded to the common target as a single PDU thereby reducing
the number of PDUs traversing the network.

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